

Bardenheuer uses in his treatment of fractures; even the status of the electric burr is doubtful. We are learning principles and we seek to consummate them in the easiest way. Treves would have us beware of the surgeon of many tools.

As surgical knowledge has advanced its practitioners have attacked one portion of the body after another and in each new field the subject has been worked out from the complex to the simple. The chest cavity has been the last to seriously engage our attention and its surgery is advancing most rapidly. The use of differential pressure is certainly a necessity in many cases, if not in all, and the solution of this interesting problem has called forth many mechanical devices, of which the positive pressure apparatus of Brauer and the negative pressure cabinet of Sauerbruch may be considered as the types. In the last number of the JOURNAL Bunnell described an ingenious contrivance for positive pressure. The combination of positive and negative pressure in the apparatus of Willy Meyer marks the acme in expensive, elaborate and cumbersome construction.

In view of these facts a recent contribution by Meltzer and Auer is of the greatest interest. These authors have found that respiration can be carried on without any normal or artificial respiratory movements whatever. This is done by inflating the lungs with air under fifteen or twenty millimeters' pressure by means of a foot bellows attached to a tube about two-thirds the size of an anaesthetized dog's trachea. The tube is pushed through a tracheotomy wound down to the tracheal bifurcation. The apparatus allows perfect pulmonary ventilation; respiratory movements continue if one side of the chest only is opened. The entire front of the thorax may be cut away by this method the lungs remaining unmoved. If the air is first passed through an ether bottle the animal may be kept in excellent condition for four hours or longer.

It is interesting to note that Carrel has been using the method with good results in operations on the thoracic aorta. It would seem that this work of Meltzer and Auer is the most important contribution on the subject which has yet appeared for it involves a new principle.

Probably no more significant legislation has been enacted in San Francisco during the past year than the ordinance relative to the prevention of the spread of tuberculosis, which recently became a law. It will be remembered that the Tuberculosis Committee of the Medical Society of the State of California introduced a bill into the State Legislature last winter "defining the powers and duties of physicians, local health officers, and boards of health in the matter of the protection of the people of the State of California, from the disease known as tuberculosis, providing for requisitions and reports, and making appropriation therefor." This bill passed both houses of the Legislature and was vetoed by the Governor for reasons which he endeavored to explain in a veto message. The comments of the committee on this

strange message were set forth in its Annual Report (See JOURNAL, Vol. 7, page 162.) The recommendation of the committee, namely, that local boards of health endeavor to have enacted ordinances relative to the prevention of the spread of tuberculosis, has been fulfilled in San Francisco through the enactment of the above-named ordinance. This ordinance is practically a reproduction of the state bill, with the addition of a section giving the Health Officer discretionary power in the forcible removal of a tuberculous individual who through carelessness and indifference persists in habits of living, which directly endangered others. It would seem impossible to the casual reader that such cases exist; yet a tour of inspection any day with one of the nurses of the San Francisco Tuberculosis Clinic, will convince the investigator how necessary is such a provision. This ordinance places San Francisco at once among the most advanced American cities in point of legislative enactment for the control of tuberculosis. With an active tuberculosis association and a board of health energetic in the accomplishment of measures for the relief and control of tuberculosis, we may confidently look forward to an early amelioration of those conditions which have given San Francisco a mortality from this disease, which has been a serious reflection on our civilization. It is sincerely to be hoped that the hearty co-operation of the medical profession of the city will not be lacking in the enforcement of this ordinance.

In two towns in our State most iniquitous action has been taken by the Town Trustees. At St.

OUTRAGEOUS Helena and at Salinas ordinances have been passed requiring a license of \$12.00 per year to practice medicine. In St.

Helena several of the local physicians refused to pay the license and were arrested. Their refusal was based upon the injustice of the imposition and the case will be fought out. It seems likely that the ordinance will be defeated, but it is also understood that another and similar ordinance will be passed if the present one should be found faulty. What action has been taken at Salinas we have not heard, but it is to be hoped that the resident physicians of that community will most emphatically record their protest. To tax the one profession that gives so liberally and so ungrudgingly of its time, its brains and even of its scanty dollars to charity and charitable works, is indeed an outrage! The medical profession gives more in time and work and money or its equivalent than all the charitable organizations in the country combined. Physicians in attendance upon our county and city hospitals and institutions of a similar sort, are seldom, if ever, paid for their services, though the communities benefit from the unselfish work of the doctor. There are doubtless a goodly number of citizens in both these communities who have received their professional attention free at the hands of the local physicians, these same medical men knowing full well that they would never be paid for their work. It is indeed an outrage and one that should come to